

**Federal Geographic Data Committee  
Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2006**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Marine and Coastal Spatial Data (MCSD) Subcommittee met at the Federal Communications Commission in Washington, D.C. on November 14, 2006. An agenda is included at the end of the minutes, as is a list of items that were distributed at the meeting. Individuals who wish to request copies of these items should contact David Stein at *Dave.Stein@noaa.gov*.

**Opening Remarks/Subcommittee Business**

Tony LaVoi (NOAA), Subcommittee Chair, called the meeting to order. The last meeting was held on March 7, 2005 in Myrtle Beach, SC during the Coastal GeoTools Conference. Tony thanked Donald Campbell for hosting the meeting, then participants introduced themselves (list is attached below). Tony LaVoi then provided a brief overview of the Subcommittee. David Stein (NOAA) reviewed recent Subcommittee accomplishments, the agenda for the meeting, and highlights from the last meeting. Tony followed by providing an FGDC and Geospatial Line of Business update. The opening presentation will be available on the Subcommittee's Web site at [www.csc.noaa.gov/mcsd/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mcsd/).

**Agenda Items**

**1. Shoreline Data Content Standard**

Eric Linzey (NOAA) provided an update on the status of the Standard. The standard is currently in the pre-public review stage. Eric has contacted Julie Maitra from the FGDC letting her know that the National Geodetic Survey and the Subcommittee will be requesting formal public review once the Subcommittee has had a chance to do another review. There were several people on the Subcommittee who expressed interest in reviewing the standard but needed until the end of the calendar year. Eric will distribute the standard to the list server.

**2. Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM)**

John Haines (USGS and co-chair of the IWG-OCM) gave a briefing on the effort underway by the IWG-OCM to develop a coastal and ocean mapping inventory. A summary of the activity is as follows: The Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping (IWG-OCM) will develop an inventory of coastal and ocean mapping programs, their existing data, and planned acquisitions, along with a Web-based system to search and display records from the inventory. Some of the initial steps include

- 1) Inventory data management activities of major federal agency mapping programs;
- 2) Assess commonalities and differences in data management activities within major federal mapping programs;
- 3) Research other mapping program or data inventory activities underway;

- 4) Develop Statement of Work for contract team to develop IWG-OCM mapping inventory and display system;
- 5) Build and maintain the IWG-OCM community within GOS and on the IWG-OCM Web page.

John mentioned that the members of the Subcommittee have the knowledge and expertise to conduct the initial data inventory and the Subcommittee is the logical venue to take on parts of project plan. A small subset of the Subcommittee and IWG-OCM will work over the next couple of months to formalize the project plan.

### **3. Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS)**

Stephen Brown (NOAA) presented on a standard for classifying benthic habitats. CMECS has been a collaborative effort between NatureServe and NOAA. The Coastal/Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS) is a classification of the habitats of the estuaries, coasts and oceans of North America. The CMECS framework applies a uniform set of classification rules that function at multiple scales and across a great diversity of environments and habitats in all climatic, geologic and biogeographic regions of the continent. The scope of the classification framework extends from the head-of-tides in the coastal zone to the deep ocean. This encompasses estuaries, wetlands, rivers, shorelines, islands, the intertidal zone, the entire benthic zone, and the entire water column from the shore to the deep ocean. The classification was developed to allow effective identification, monitoring, protection, and restoration of unique biotic assemblages, protected species, critical habitat, and important ecosystem components. The standard is currently being testing in the GIS environment. The project team is in the beginning stages of pursuing FGDC endorsement of the standard and will be working with the Wetlands Subcommittee to push the standard through the process.

### **4. Subcommittee Work Plan**

David Stein distributed the 2005 work plan as a refresher then went through each work plan item and task looking for input into the 2007-2008 plan. Work items include participating in the Geospatial One-Stop project and the Geospatial Line of Business initiative; responding to directives in the Ocean Action Plan; developing the National Shoreline Data Content Standard and enhanced access to shoreline data; advancing the bathymetry framework theme; and supporting the Marine Boundary Working Group activities. Suggestions from the Subcommittee included expanding the one-NOAA shoreline concept to all Federal agencies that develop shoreline; and devote the subcommittee meetings to thematic content like shoreline and bathymetry. If there's enough interest in these topics, the subcommittee may consider the idea of establishing separate working groups for topical areas (e.g. the Marine Boundary Working Group). David Stein will update the work plan and send around for comment.

### **5. Thematic and Agency Updates**

Marine Boundary Working Group: Cindy Fowler and David Stein recapped the meeting from the day before (11/13/06) (see minutes at [www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/mbwg)). Steve Kopach and Jim Fulmer provided an overview of the marine cadastre project (work item in the

MBWG work plan). On August 8, 2005, President George Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-58). *Sec. 388 – Alternative Energy-Related Uses on the Outer Continental Shelf*, of the Act grants the Minerals Management Service (MMS) new authority to regulate alternative energy uses on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Moreover, it directs the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Commandant of the Coast Guard, and the Secretary of Defense, to establish an OCS Mapping Initiative to assist in decision making related to alternative energy uses on the OCS. The goal of the initiative is the identification of OCS locations of Federally-permitted activities; obstructions to navigation; submerged cultural resources; undersea cables; offshore aquaculture projects; and any area designated for the purpose of safety, national security, environmental protection, or conservation and management of living marine resources. The repository of this data will be the Multipurpose Marine Cadastre - an integrated submerged lands information system consisting of legal, e.g., property ownership or cadastre, physical, and cultural information in a common reference framework. It will be an ambitious, multiyear endeavor that requires joint planning, interaction, and commitment by Federal, State, local, territorial, and tribal entities working through public and private partnerships.

A subset of the MBWG has agreed to take the next steps in defining the Web interface and Internet mapping component of the multi-purpose marine cadastre. A survey has been developed to identify what map services (ArcImage, ArcFeature, Web Feature Service (WFS) and Web Map Service (WMS)) exist for these data. Since only 6 people responded (out of 112 people on the MBWG list server), it was decided that the first step should be to have member agencies populate a standardized spreadsheet, which would serve as an inventory of primary and supporting data in a marine cadastre system. It was also decided that the group would work on creating some surround material that would help market the concept since the word “cadastre” means nothing to people outside the field and the project has potential far reaching benefits. There was also discussion about how this ties into the larger Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping project to develop a coastal and ocean mapping inventory. The subgroup will continue to define the project and is scheduled to meet in Charleston on January 17-18, 2007.

Geospatial One-Stop: David Stein updated the group on the Hurricanes Community on GOS. There's a general hurricanes page with some core geospatial resources as well as a Hurricanes 2006 page containing the storm tracks and summary information. See [www.geodata.gov](http://www.geodata.gov) for more information.

Maritime Boundaries Project and Hydrographic Update: Meredith Westington (NOAA) reported that digital versions of the U.S maritime limits of the territorial sea and contiguous zone, as well as the Three Nautical Mile Line, have been posted to the Internet for the continental U.S., Hawaiian Islands, and Puerto Rico. The EEZ at 200nm has been posted for the Hawaiian Islands and Puerto Rico and EEZ for the continental U.S shall be posted to the Internet soon. Maritime limits off of Alaska were recently approved by the U.S. Baseline Committee and will be available sometime during 2007.

Jerry Mills (NOAA) reported that UNH is in the process of constructing a building for a hydrographic data processing data center, but it is not yet complete and there have been no resources identified from which to staff it. The new vessel, a SWATH design, is under construction and will be based in Portsmouth, NH but will be operationally under OMAO (Office of Marine and Aviation Operations) which operates all of NOAA's vessels. Its primary mission will be to conduct hydrographic surveys for OCS but will likely be used for other NOAA programs as well. UNH will have no operational control over it. Jerry also reported on a seamless bathymetry database that the NOAA Office of Coast Survey is working on. Jerry has also been participating in international hydrographic standards development.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Update: Doug Vandegraft (USFWS) updated the working group on wildlife refuge boundaries. There are currently 169 refuges that touch tidally-influenced water and are considered refuges with marine boundaries. The Cartographers of the FWS are using digital data from the National Wetlands Inventory to identify the 'marine component' of the coastal refuges. The NWI data classifies wetlands according to their salinity values. The salt water habitats are 'clipped' with the refuge ownership polygons to render the marine acres and shoreline distances. The 53 refuges of the southeastern U.S. have been completed so far. Doug also reported that he has been successful in getting the coastal refuges listed in the NOAA Coast Pilot. Working with the NOAA Marine Managed Area Office in Monterey, CA, those refuges that have tidal waters that can float a 30' boat are now listed in Appendix C. Also mentioned was the Memorandum of Understanding signed last May by FWS, NOAA, and the State of Hawaii for the cooperative management of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This area was declared a marine national monument by Presidential Proclamation in June.

Army Corps of Engineers: Nancy Blyler provided an update on ACOE activities. USACE Inland Electronic Navigation Chart (IENC) meeting will be held in conjunction with the Hypack User group meeting January 8-9, 2007. Coastal Databank will go public in January. USACE Hydrographic Community of Practice will meet in June in Norfolk. USACE awarded a contract to Northrop Grumman to maintain and further develop the Spatial Data Standards for Facilities, Infrastructure and Environment (SDSFIE).

Federal Emergency Management Agency : Mark Crowell briefed the Subcommittee on the National Flood Insurance Rate Map modernization effort. It's a 5 year 1 billion dollar effort to update 100 year base flood elevations. Most of the data that is being used in the modernization project is Lidar.

## **5. Action Items**

*Action 1:* Eric Linzey to send the Shoreline Data Content Standard out to the subcommittee for review. Comments to be submitted by end of the calendar year.

*Action 2:* David Stein to send out the work plan for review, then send to the FGDC.

*Action 3:* When One-NOAA shoreline is released, send out to the Subcommittee for review.

*Action 4:* Send out FGDC Cooperative Agreement Program announcement to the Subcommittee.

### **Items Distributed**

- Agenda
- 2005–2006 work plan
- Attendees list

### **Attendees**

Tony LaVoi, NOAA  
Henry Norris, Florida FWC  
Eric Linzey, NOAA  
Joe Evjen, NOAA  
Cindy Fowler, NOAA  
Mark Crowell, FEMA  
Donald Campbell, FCC  
Meredith Westington, NOAA  
Matt Slagel, NOAA  
Milo Robinson, FGDC  
Nancy Blyler, ACOE  
John Haines, USGS  
Jerry Mills, NOAA  
Doug Vandegraft, USFWS  
Steve Kopach, MMS  
Jim Fulmer, MMS  
David Stein, NOAA  
Steve Brown, NOAA

### **Agenda**

FGDC Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee Meeting  
November 14, 2006  
Federal Communications Commission - Room 8-B516  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW, Washington, DC

### **Meeting Outcomes:**

- Revised FY 2007-08 work plan
- Action plans for priority work items

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8:45 Coffee and bagels

9:00 Welcome, introductions, and agenda review – Tony LaVoi

- 9:15 Highlights from last meeting – David Stein
- 9:30 Current activities and items of interest from the FGDC – Tony LaVoi
- Geospatial Line of Business
  - Annual reports
- 9:45 Work plan item – Shoreline Data Content Standard – Eric Linzey, NOAA
- 10:15 Break
- 10:30 Work plan item – Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping Coordination – John Haines, USGS
- 11:15 Coastal Marine Ecological Classification System (CMECS) — Stephen Brown, NOAA
- 11:45 Lunch (on your own)
- 1:00 Review and update subcommittee work plan - All
- Discuss current drivers
  - Identify priorities
  - Update work plan
- 2:00 Thematic, Agency, and Committee Updates
- Marine Boundary Working Group – Cindy Fowler and Steve Kopach
  - Geospatial One-Stop – David Stein
  - Office of Coast Survey – Meredith Westington, Jerry Mills
  - USFWS – Doug Vandegraft
  - MMS – Steve Kopach
  - FCC – Donald Campbell
  - Navy - TBD
  - USGS - TBD
  - NGA - TBD
- 3:30 Review next steps and action items

Meeting Minutes Submitted by

David Stein, NOAA Coastal Services Center  
FGDC Marine and Coastal Spatial Data Subcommittee Executive Secretary